

Weekly Column for July 21, 2005-

Well it is the end of another exciting week here in the City of Troy; I hope you are all staying cool during this hot and wet month.

Earlier this week we had the wonderful opportunity to present a new plan to the City Council that my administration believes will completely revitalize the area that is now Riverfront Park. The Engineering and Planning departments in the City have recently completed the plan, which has been in the works for around a year.

Riverfront Park is situated near City Hall along the Hudson River, but is completely underutilized. Last year we began an effort to improve the area, and have come up with a \$15 million plan to overhaul the entire land and make it a destination spot for everyone around the Capital District.

There are so many aspects of this project; it is difficult to sum it up in one column, though I will try my best. The following are the most prominent details of the Riverfront Park project:

- Heroes Park- in the new park the monuments that are located along the Hudson now will be joined together for a powerful tribute to those who have sacrificed so much for this great nation. In addition to the Vietnam Memorial and Korean Memorial, a new World War II memorial and a Police and Fire Memorial will be added to "Heroes Park." The area will be heavily landscaped and be a wonderful tribute to not only veterans, but all of our heroes.
- Science Center- This building will be built with historical features in mind and showcase the most exciting aspect of the new project. The Dudley Observatory, currently located in Schenectady, has agreed to move its planetarium to our Riverfront. That alone will make the project worthwhile. However, the building will also house meeting centers and educational tools for our youngest residents.
- The Lighthouse- Another exciting feature is the working lighthouse, which will be completed with full bathrooms, something that is sorely lacking in the current park. This venture will help us expand our current marina and lock Troy in as *the* place to stop along the Hudson River for boaters.
- Expanded band shell- The current musical setup leaves much to be desired not only from a performance sense, but a spectator one as well. With new seating for up to 1,000 people the new band shell, and Riverfront Park as a whole, will become a wonderful place for festivals and summer afternoon concerts.
- The Uncle Sam Monument- Currently located behind the bus stop on 3rd Street, the monument dedicated to our proud past is in a terrible spot, and often overlooked by many people. In the new plans, the monument will sit where the Vietnam Monument is, and include a thorough history of Uncle Sam, the man and the legend.

This is just the beginning of this project, but it is an exciting start. Thus far, all of the work for the project has been completed in house, without the use of consultants. In the

past, the plans we have developed would have cost the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. The total cost thus far? Zero.

I believe this project will take off in the coming months, and construction could be begin next year. We are living in exciting times in Troy, and this project is just another example of what can be done when people work together to accomplish a common goal. Our goal this time was to give the residents of Troy something they can be proud of.

We are in the process of searching for funding to start the project. We will search far and wide, because when this Riverfront Revitalization is complete, it alone will stand as an example of what can be done along the Hudson River.

If you have any questions about the plan, or would like to leave a suggestion, please do not hesitate to call me at 270-4401 or e-mail me mayorsoffice@troyny.gov Have a great weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy